

# Our Lady Help of Christians' Parents Association – The Year that 2010 Was

## President's Report

The year started for the PA in February with the **2010 Welcome (Back) Picnic** which was well attended and was a success from both the fund raising and social connectedness aspects of the PA's role. The favourite and traditional coin toss competition kept parents many enthralled, and there were activities for the children as well as a raffle.

The **Annual General Meeting** was held in March and the positions of Treasurer and Secretary were returned. With no nomination for a President the current President returned in an interim role until a new President could be found. This did not occur and the current President remained in the position until the next AGM (May 2011). A new Vice President joined the Committee and a new Committee was able to be formed in its entirety.

May is a traditionally busy month for the PA as we hold the Mother's Day stall as well as the much anticipated Walkathon. The **Mother's Day stall** saw the PA purchasing gifts again which the children could purchase for a nominal amount for their mother, carer or special someone. The aim of both the Mother and Father's Day stores is threefold; to have the children think about being responsible with money, being accountable for choosing a gift that they feel their parent will enjoy and also to allow them to 'give back' to their parents as a gesture of gratitude. These stores are not primarily for fund raising but rather the focus is on the 'connectedness' aspect of the PA's role.

The annual **Walkathon** was also held on Our Lady's Feast Day which was a great, well attended day. The kids loved it, and it was fabulous to have so many parents, grandparents and siblings enjoying a snag together after the event. This event was successful on many levels; fund raising, a fun way of giving children exercise while allowing them to get involved and raise money by walking for their school and a great opportunity for 'connectedness' with parents and siblings spending time together at the school by enjoying a BBQ which was provided by the PA.

In July the PA held a **Bunnings BBQ** at the Coburg store as well as **The Visual Arts Exhibition**. Both events required a great deal of effort, and both were considered a success.

**The Visual Arts Exhibition** was well attended and was held in the Parish Hall to accommodate the great art completed by our children and the number of families in attendance. As a result the PA were able to offer more than just a nibble and drink. The PA also offered a photo opportunity with children and their art which parents could purchase and also wine tastings and sales. A cake stall was also held.

August held the school's major fund raising event of the year which took the form of a **Family Disco**. This evening was a huge success on so many levels – connectedness (we reached our crowd capacity!), fund raising, combining Parish, Community and School. It was lovely to see so many teachers in attendance to boogie the night away with many students. The evening included a dedication to the children who were suffering around the

World and glow sticks were sold with money raised going to Work Vision Pakistan Appeal. The evening also included a raffle and silent auction where donations were received from local businesses as a result of a door knocking exercise of these local businesses. Businesses received a certificate of Appreciation, a copy of the Program and letter thanking them for their contribution to the evening, all of which were very well received.

The **Father's Day Stall** was held in September where the PA purchased gifts for the stall.

The month of October saw the PA again honour the teachers with a **Teachers' Luncheon** on International Teachers Day. This included a beautiful cake that the teachers could cut and share amongst themselves. The event was again well received, and only a small gesture in appreciation of our very wonderful teaching staff. Each class organised either a card, a gift or a performance in recognition of their teachers.

The month of November saw the hugely popular **School Disco** happen.

In addition to all these events the PA also had the **weekly tuckshop** to organise. This is a very popular way for parents to assist the PA as it requires less than an hour of time, and allows parents to see their children and vice versa. It is for this reason that the roster was completely filled for the year within a couple of weeks for publication. The Tuckshop only offers 2 – 3 treats and it is a feat to have the freezer and cupboards stocked.

The PA also coordinated the fund raising receipts and payments of the **Year 6 Graduation Committee** as well as made a donation to contribute to their fund raising.

As you can see the PA Events Calendar was again full for 2010 as was the School's calendar with many exciting things happening. Whilst there was a devoted Committee in place it is impossible to run these events without enormous support from within the School Community. Parents volunteered their time for the various events; be that wrapping a present for a stall, to BBQing a snag, to providing DJing skills at PA events. We are fortunate to have so many parents willing to assist where they can. The PA is equally lucky to have a supportive Principal, teaching and administrative staff who assist when they can. These factors make for smooth sailing!

The success of the PA initiatives this year is evidenced by a \$25,000 donation that will be made in 2011 for the purchase and installation of Interactive Electronic White Boards such that every class room will have one. This is an achievement that every parent at OLHC should be very proud of as very family contributed to this outcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who have served on the PA Executive and Committee with me this year for their dedication and commitment and to thank you, the parents, for supporting the PA initiatives where you have been able

I am very honoured to introduce the Treasurer's report for 2010.

**Rosa Scroggie**

**President PA.**